



# The Journal

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May 8, 2014

## 'One Voice United In Prayer'

### *Walter Reed Bethesda Observes National Day of Prayer*



**Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Jarzaline Dubose enjoys the 2014 National Day of Prayer breakfast with her son Jamari at the Warrior Cafe on board Naval Support Activity Bethesda.**

**By Bernard S. Little**  
**WRNMMC Public Affairs**  
**staff writer**

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) joined the rest of the nation in observing the National Day of Prayer May 1.

This year's national theme was "One Voice United in Prayer," and was observed at WRNMMC with a prayer breakfast and service of prayer and reflection. Prayers were said for the nation, its leaders, military members, their families, the sick and suffering, Walter Reed Bethesda staff, patients, the medical center, the world, and for peace, freedom and justice.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, WRNMMC director, welcomed attendees to the prayer breakfast. "I always find it interesting we have a month or day dedicated to something we do all the time," said the general. "I don't mean that in a negative way, because as I thought about it [observances] remind

us, and give us an opportunity to recommit ourselves to something we ought to be thinking about more than just one month or day." He added, "Having prayer in our lives is a good thing."

Retired Sgt. 1st Class Donald Francisco was the guest speaker at the WRNMMC prayer breakfast. He discussed his spiritual journey through music. A former member of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps at Joint Base Myer-Henderson in Arlington, Va., Francisco played the flute and a variety of other items tailored to produce flute-like sounds. He currently works at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate as a history interpreter and resident Colonial fifer.

"I want to be an instrument of the Lord, so I pray that I can be in tune with Jesus," Francisco said between playing various instruments. "We should also pray to be in harmony with one another," he added.

Hospital Corpsman Jodie



Photos by Bernard S. Little

**At the Warrior Cafe during the 2014 National Day of Prayer, prayers are said for the world, nation, military, military families, the ill and injured and for peace.**

Hartman also performed during the prayer breakfast, singing songs of reflection and inspiration.

During the afternoon service of prayer and reflection in the hospital chapel at WRNMMC, Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Pratel provided the opening prayer, and prayed for the world, peace, freedom and justice. Imam Mohammed Khan provided an Islamic perspective on the value of prayer, while Chaplain (Cmdr.) Barry Metzger gave a Christian perspective on the value of prayer, and prayed for the nation and its leaders. Chaplain (Maj.) Susan Caswell prayed for the military and military families, and Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Leslie Sias prayed for the sick and suffering, the Walter Reed Bethesda staff, pa-

tients and the medical center during the service.

"Prayer is an essential part of our lives," Khan said. He added prayer involves submission and supplication. The imam explained in the Islamic tradition, prayer is an act for seeking guidance, forgiveness and mercy for all.

In praying for the nation and leaders, Metzger read from 1 Timothy Chapter 1, which states "prayers be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in authority, that people may lead peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness."

Praying for the military, civilians and military families, Caswell said, "We honor and recognize the brave heroes who proudly wear the uni-

forms of our military services. Strengthen their resiliency as they confront the challenges of each day. We honor and recognize our civilians, contractors and volunteers for providing essential services and continuity for our country. Grant them energy as they face the demands of each day. Thank you for our families and friends. We pray for the safe return of all those in harm's way and successful reunions of couples and families, and the smooth reintegration of our veterans."

Sias urged those who are sick and suffering to "cast their cares on the Lord, and he will sustain you" as it states in Psalms 55:22. He added the Lord uses the WRNMMC

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# Security Corner

Hi everyone. I'm Hans Semple, the Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) Access Control and Physical Security Officer, assigned to Security/Base Police.

Access control pertains to the process of determining who is and is not authorized personnel and therefore granted access to the installation. Recently, you should have noticed changes to the access control procedures utilized at our Entry Control Point (ECP) by our sentries, all of whom are police officers, masters-at-arms, or members of our Auxiliary Security Force, whom are charged with the authority of a police officer while on ECP sentry duty. The most notable change is the use of scanning devices to check the validity of common access cards and various other types of Department of Defense issued identification (ID) credentials. The scanners check the validity of the credential and person presenting it. Since the DEERS database is updated in real-time, changes to personnel status such as termination of employment or report of a lost or stolen ID card appear on the scanner's screen each time the credential is scanned. You will experience a short delay while the sentry waits for the scanner to indicate your current status, and prior to handing your ID credential back to you and granting access. The sentry will confiscate the ID if it is no longer valid. If your ID is not scanned, we ask that you please stop walking or driving while the sentry checks your ID.

Effective this past Monday, May 5, all personnel who make a non-regularly scheduled delivery to NSAB, to include, but not limited to fast food, pizza, flowers, gifts, etc., for any person(s) working, residing or staying onboard NSA Bethesda, will undergo a vetting process to determine their suitability for access to a Navy installation. This vetting is not new, it is just expanded. Vetting includes a criminal background check through the National Crime Information Center and a Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act check. Vehicles making such non-regularly scheduled deliveries, and all visitors who are not on the base access list, arriving during the hours of 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, will be asked to report to the Pass and ID, Building 102, located at



the North Gate. If the visitor(s) and non-regularly scheduled delivery pass the entire vetting process, they will be issued a "One-Day Installation Pass." Outside these regular hours of operation, as well as on all federal holidays, all visitors and non-regularly scheduled deliveries will undergo this procedure at the ECP. Once the visitor(s) and non-regularly scheduled delivery receive a one-day pass, they may drive aboard the installation. Regularly scheduled deliveries, where the driver has the proper credentials and documentation, or whose name appears on the base access list will continue to be granted access as usual. There are additional access control policy changes that will be phased into effect during the coming months. You will be advised, in advance, as these changes will go into effect.

The NSA Bethesda dedicated Pass and ID team is charged with strictly and fairly enforcing all access control policies prior to issuing/renewing a pass or staff ID badge. Parking passes are only issued once the employee's cognizant parking champion authorizes an employee to receive one. Parking permits are issued based on the employee's parent command, not necessarily which parking location is the closest to their place of work. The lots and garages are assigned utilizing a color-coding system based on the installation tenant commands. Members of the Access Control team, me included, are not authorized to override these policies.

As a final reminder, the goal of the NSAB security team is that all hands stay up to date and remain informed on access control procedures, so it is important that all hands read the Postmasters and information updates. Please remain safe, keep your eyes and ears open as you transit the installation, and as always, if something seems out of place, report it to dispatch at 777 (from internal phones), 301-295-0999 from cell phones, or for non-emergency situations, 301-295-1246. For more information or with any questions or concerns, please contact me at *Hans.Semple@med.navy.mil* or *Hans.Semple@navy.mil*.

**Hans Semple,**  
**NSAB Access Control and**  
**Physical Security Officer**

## Bethesda Notebook

### WRNMMC Town Hall Meetings

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) town hall meetings are scheduled for Tuesday at 7 a.m., noon and 3:30 p.m. in the Memorial Auditorium. All WRNMMC staff members are encouraged attend one of the town hall meetings.

### Mandatory Safety Training

Mandatory safety training for all Walter Reed National Military Medical Center personnel will be held Wednesday in the Memorial and Clark Auditoriums. A Common Access Card is required for sign-in and as proof of attendance. The training is to prepare staff for the 101 Critical Days of Summer, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, which is May 23 through Sept. 1 this year. The mandatory safety training will be at 5 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. in the Memorial and Clark auditoriums. Staff members should attend at least one of the sessions. For more information about the training, call 301-295-4663.

### Dominican Republic Humanitarian Mission

In the April 17 *Journal* article "WRNMMC Medical Team Brings Smiles to Dominican Republic," the name of Seaman Elizabeth Mueller, an operating room technician, was unintentionally left off of the list of those staff members from Walter Reed Bethesda who participated on the humanitarian mission in the Dominican Republic from March 8 to 22.

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# Walter Reed Bethesda Remembers the Holocaust

By Sharon Renee Taylor  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

"Even though the Holocaust was a historically negative event, it is important for all of us to examine, accept and learn from the past," said Equal Opportunity Advisor Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Zielske, who serves as the command advisor to the Walter Reed Bethesda Multicultural Committee.

He quoted Irish philosopher Edmund Burke. "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it," Zielske said.

A group of 50 civilians, service members and their family members visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, April 30 in honor of the Holocaust Days of Remembrance. The annual eight-day period is observed from the Sunday before Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) to the Sunday after Yom Hashoah.

According to the museum, Congress established the Days of Remembrance as the nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust — a state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish men, women and children by the Nazi Regime between 1933 and 1945.

"The Holocaust Days of Remembrance is not your typical cultural observance that is celebrated, so instead we figured a great way to provide awareness about this event is to tour the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum," Zielske explained.

The April 30 trip to the museum was the third led by Zielske and sponsored by the Bethesda Multicultural Committee. His wife Elsie accompanied him.

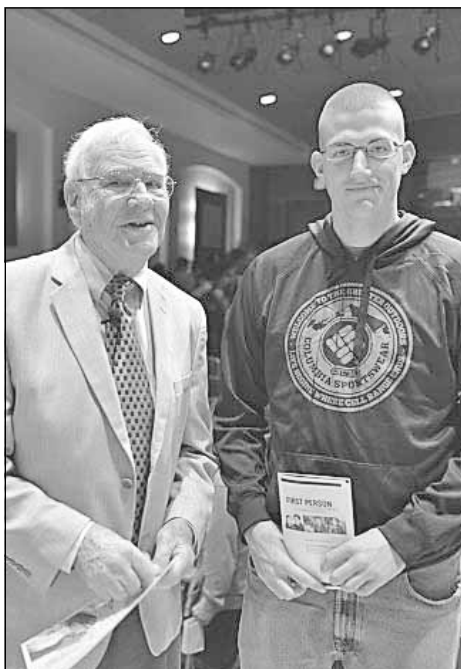


Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

**Holocaust survivor Gerald Liebenau, left, a former U.S. Army Soldier, shared his first person account of Nazi Germany with Navy Hospitalman James Boswell, right, and 50 other WRNMMC staffers during a visit to the Holocaust Museum, April 30.**

"[She] was particularly moved by the videos that were shown throughout the museum, especially those of the liberation by the U.S. Troops," Zielske said. "I did not see anything new within the exhibit but the Holocaust survivor we spoke to was different from the previous years. It is always great to hear these stories first-hand, as opposed to a book or article."

Like Zielske, the trip to the Holocaust Museum was not the first for

Navy Hospitalman James Boswell, a psychiatric technician at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and a native of Bozeman, Mont.

"I probably have been to the Holocaust museum a total of 11 or 12 times. The reason I keep coming back is I find it really interesting that the Holocaust could happen, and that Hitler was able to influence an entire culture to see his view for a 'better' Germany," Boswell said.

The Sailor studied German for four years in high school, and traveled to see the Dachau concentration camp.

"The thing that stuck out most this time is the section that dealt with the barracks of the Jews. I didn't know that most were killed on arrival and some were expected to take care of the dead bodies."

The Walter Reed Bethesda group listened to a living testimony of a first person account during a conversation with Holocaust survivor Gerald Liebenau, born to a Jewish family in 1925 in Berlin, Germany. He recalled his first experience with racial discrimination in Germany, "being chased by neighbors for being Jewish."

Liebenau explained his family narrowly escaped all the hardship, moving to London to await the announcement of their visa numbers, and immigrating to the U.S. at age 14 in 1939. He was drafted by the U.S. Army as an infantry machine gunner, and spent a second year in the Office of Strategic Services before returning to school and graduating from Yale University.

"I was excited to meet him," said Boswell about the Holocaust survivor. "I love hearing people's stories, especially

the build-up to the war."

Unlike Boswell, the trip to the Holocaust Museum was the first for medical technician Elena Morris, who works in the Biomedical Research Lab at Walter Reed Bethesda. It was an unforgettable first-time visit for Morris, she said.

"I will always remember the shoes!" she said. "The imprint of a person is left in the shoes."

The museum displays a room of reportedly 4,000 shoes belonging to prisoners who were forced to remove them before entering the concentration camps. The smell and sight of shoes of all types — men's boots and women's sandals; dull and dusty leathers; fancy strapped heels and pumps, once all-white, can linger in the memory for some museum visitors, like Morris.

She also made a discovery during the tour.

"Hitler killed himself on April 30. I never gave Hitler any thought," Morris said.

Coincidentally, the Walter Reed Bethesda tour of the Holocaust Museum coincided with the 69th anniversary of the death of Adolf Hitler.

The Bethesda Multicultural Committee sponsors monthly events in observance of the diversity found at WRNMMC and within the military community. The next event will be in celebration of Asian-American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 22 at 11:30 a.m. in the America Building atrium (piano area). The event will feature dancers, speakers and food. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Zielske at 301-400-3542.

## Medical Center Salutes Military, Civilian Staff Members for Service

By Bernard S. Little  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

Walter Reed Bethesda recognized a few of its finest during an awards ceremony April 17 in Memorial Auditorium.

"It's always good for us gather, [especially] to honor our folks and celebrate," said Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Director Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark. "So much good happens [here]," he continued, explaining people honored during the ceremony are responsible for that goodness.

Frances M. Washington, a pharmacy technician for the Outpatient Pharmacy, earned the Junior Civilian of the Year Award, and senior health physicist Kevin Allen, of the Radiation Safety Division, was named Senior Civilian of the Year.



Photo by Bernard S. Little

**Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Director Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark (bottom left) and Master Chief Maria Fernandez (bottom right), WRNMMC acting senior enlisted leader, recognize WRNMMC's quarterly and annual award winners during a ceremony April 17 in Memorial Auditorium.**

In a letter of commendation, Washington is referred to as "one of the hardest working pharmacy technicians within the pharmacy department who

demonstrates an unwavering dedication to taking care of the patients and mission accomplishment by focusing on efficiency and top notch patient

care. During 2013, [she] received more than 50 written patient compliments that explain in detail how she provided outstanding customer service."

Allen is described as "an outstanding, dedicated, and selfless member of the Technical Branch, Radiation Safety Service, Department of Public Health staff," in his letter of commendation. He is also called "a skillful manager with proven ability to attain high standards of performance in any endeavor." He is credited with spearheading an annual radiation safety training website at WRNMMC which can be expanded throughout the Department of Defense.

Civilian quarterly awards were also presented during the ceremony. Those earning the awards were computer assistant Bernard Lewis (Administrative Junior Civilian of the Quarter), of In-

See **SERVICE** page 10





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## Children of Wounded Warriors Will Remain at Bethesda Elementary

By Julie Smith  
NSAB Public Affairs  
staff writer

As a former school principal, Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) School Liaison Officer Horace Franklin knows the value of a good education. He also knows that consistency plays a part in how well children learn.

So when the Montgomery County Board of Education proposed a redistricting change that would involve elementary school children of wounded warrior families aboard NSAB moving from one school to two separate schools, Franklin took action.

"I looked at it through the eyes of a parent and an administrator. If there's a problem, the principal is going to be the one to solve it," Franklin said. "I'm like a principal with no school. I solve problems and get resources aligned so the kids are successful."

The issue arose when the school board made a decision to reassign children who live in NSAB's Tranquility Hall with a family member receiving treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) from Bethesda Elementary School to Rosemary Hills Elementary School and North Chevy Chase Elementary School. Children in kindergarten through second grade would attend Rosemary Hills and third through sixth graders would go to North Chevy Chase, Franklin said.

The recommendation sparked debate between school board members and NSAB military families, who felt their children were already going through enough transition by leaving their home school to come to NSAB.

NSAB leadership agreed, and petitioned the Montgomery County school board to allow the children to remain at Bethesda Elementary.

"One of the things we talked about was the idea that you have children who have a wounded warrior (at NSAB), their life has been uprooted from wherever they were before, and all the things they're dealing with having an injured parent now and the life changes that are occurring because of that," NSAB Commander Capt. David Bitonti said. "The school was serving as a constant for them once they were here. If they had other siblings in the school, they could help each other, and more importantly, as the families congregate here, they become supportive

of one another. If our population is scattered, you lose that support system. So from a continuity perspective, from a community perspective and from a stabilization perspective it was very important for our children to have the opportunity to stay at Bethesda Elementary."

Franklin said the highest number of elementary age children living on NSAB has never reached more than 20 and their time on the installation can last anywhere from six months to two and a half years. If school redistricting took place, that could mean several transitions for just one child.

"A child in the second grade could go from their home school to NSAB, and then in the fall would attend Rosemary Hills. If they're here the following school year they would go to North Chevy Chase for third grade," Franklin said. "When the service member gets better they would go back home, so they would have four different transitions. We were just trying to create a sense of stability and a sense of normalcy where the kids were all at one school that they know."

There were concerns for the schools as well, said Franklin, who held meetings with each school's Parent Teacher Association to make sure the attendance rates of Rosemary Hills and North Chevy Chase wouldn't be harmed and Bethesda Elementary could handle the additional students. An even bigger benefit to keeping the children at Bethesda Elementary is their familiarization with military families, Bitonti added.

"Bethesda Elementary has learned over the years about the unique needs of military children and the things they're dealing with as the family member of a wounded warrior," Bitonti said.

After conducting a boundary change study review, the Montgomery County school board voted on March 24 to allow the children living on NSAB to continue attending Bethesda Elementary.

"We're very appreciative of the cooperativeness and open nature of not only the Montgomery County school board, but also the families and students at Bethesda Elementary and their willingness to work with us and hear the reasoning behind what we had to say, and then move forward with supporting the decision that we thought was best for our families," Bitonti said.

For more news from other bases around the Washington, D.C. area,

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# 2014 Joint Fund Drive Nears End

## Time Still Available to Contribute to Relief Agencies for Service Members, Families

**By Bernard S. Little**  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

Walter Reed Bethesda's 2014 Joint Fund Drive for Army Emergency Relief (AER) and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) is nearing an end, but there is still time for potential donors to contribute to the organizations that help service members and their families through financial difficulties and with education assistance.

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Director Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark and Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) Commanding Officer Navy Capt. David A. Bitonti kicked off the campaign on April 9, challenging people to contribute to AER and NMCRS. The Air Force Aid Society (AFAS) is also included among those organizations that help service members and their families overcome unforeseen financial hurdles in the form of a direct grant or an interest-free loan and with college scholarships.

"The campaign is going well, but we are only 3/4 of the way to our goal and have only

a week left," said Army Capt. Kyle Peper, AER coordinator. "The goal for the medical center is \$21,250, a 25 percent increase from last year, and we are currently at about \$16,000."

Peper added campaign coordinators are still in the process of meeting the 100 percent face-to-face contact goal with all service members to give them the opportunity to contribute to the campaign. There is also a table set up daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Main Street near the barber shop and in front of Dunkin Donut and Subway, where people can pledge to contribute or receive more information about AER, NMCRS and AFAS.

With the campaign scheduled to end on May 15, Peper said, "This is our opportunity as service members to help our fellow service members when they are faced with financial hardship. If you have ever used relief services, you know the value of the programs."

At the campaign's kick-off, Clark said during his 30 years in uniform he can recall numerous occasions when one of the relief organizations "stepped up and helped our folks." He said this is one of the reasons



Photo by Bernard S. Little

**Lt. Col. Richard A. Villarreal, Hospital Troop Commander at Walter Reed Bethesda, fills out a pledge form to contribute to 2014 Joint Fund Drive for Army Emergency Relief and the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society at the medical center.**

he and his wife, Sue, made the decision to donate to all three of the relief and aid societies.

"This is the one time of the year that we get to take care of each other," Bitonti added. "This is service members helping service members, and our

opportunity to do what we can for those who serve with us."

For more information about AER, visit [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org), or email Capt. Kyle Peper at [kyle.w.peper.mil@mail.mil](mailto:kyle.w.peper.mil@mail.mil). For information concerning NMCRS, visit [www.nmcrcs.org](http://www.nmcrcs.org),

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# WRNMMC Recognizes Research Heroes

**By Cat DeBinder**  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer

To honor volunteer research participants and celebrate the research being undertaken at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), the Department of Research Programs (DRP) recently hosted an "Aware for All" event in the Building 19 lobby as part of Research and Innovation Month.

The observance also included a poster contest, research symposium and research summit.

Dr. Deborah Murphy, who directs the Academic Research Education for DRP, said the objective of the Aware for All event was to recognize and thank those who choose to be research volunteers letting



Photo by Gregory Greer, Department of Research Programs

**During the Research and Innovation Month "Aware for All" event at Walter Reed Bethesda, 22 tables set up in the America Building lobby offer information about research undertaken at the medical center.**

them know their involvement in research is important. She added those participants make a positive difference in moving

military medicine forward to improve the health care of all beneficiaries.

Maryellen Colston, a vol-

unteer research patient who is also a staff member at WRNMMC, has been involved in the "Sister Study," a research study funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, for about eight years. She said she decided to volunteer in honor of her sister, who died from breast cancer. Colston said she considers participation in the study a "privilege."

"It is exciting knowing that what we do may help someone else and may lead to a breakthrough in treatment or diagnosing," said Colston.

"We wouldn't be able to do anything without the participation of our volunteer patients," Murphy added. "They're the biggest research heroes of all," she said.

There were 22 tables set up with informational presentations via videos, TVs, laptops,

brochures and handouts during the Aware for All event.

"We had hands-on, interactive displays to help keep it lively and animated, including an active hearing test from members of the Audiology Department," Murphy said.

"We also wanted to educate the public on the extraordinary depth and breadth of cutting-edge, state-of-the-art research being conducted at WRNMMC," she added.

Gregory Greer, DRP's senior technical editor and one of the principal organizers for the event, described it as a "true kinesthetic learning experience." He said one of the goals was to provide an informal venue for research teams to present to colleagues, hospital staff and patients and their

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# Freedom Live to Bring Top Concert Acts to NDW

**By Shawn Miller  
Naval District  
Washington Public  
Affairs**

Top-level music and comedy acts will soon be heading to installations across Naval District Washington (NDW) thanks to a new program being launched by Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR).

After bringing classic rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd to Maryland in 2012 as part of the Defenders of Freedom Day at Six Flags America, NDW MWR has transitioned such events into a new concert brand called Freedom Live.

"Freedom Live is all about value, quality and entertainment," said Lee Bell, regional program manager for NDW MWR. "Freedom Live is being established as a new entertainment brand here at NDW. The brand will provide customers with predominately concerts and comedy shows that are based on the desires of our loyal MWR fan base."

The opening act for Freedom Live's inaugural year is slated for August 16 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, featuring rock bands 3 Doors Down and Blues Traveler.

Although the concerts are on Navy installations and spon-

sored by NDW MWR, the shows will be open to service members from all branches, as well as Department of Defense (DOD) contractors and employees.

Bell said VIP tickets bought by followers of the NAS Patuxent River MWR Facebook page sold out within three days, and general admission tickets go on sale May 1. Bell advised customers, both military and civilian contractors, to buy early, as ticket prices rise as the concert date approaches.

"Anyone who has been to a concert at some of the more recognized venues within D.C. have grown accustomed to seeing high-level entertainers such as Dave Matthews, Madonna, Toby Keith, Coldplay and Journey just to name a few," Bell said. "The entire DOD community within the National Capital Region, including our own here at NDW, now has the opportunity to experience the same level of talent locally by attending a Freedom Live event."

Freedom Live customers will have the option to purchase VIP tickets, which will include perks such as meet and greets with bands, special food and beverage choices, better parking spots, and private restrooms. Regular ticket holders can still expect good seats at a discounted price, Bell said, along with free parking, afford-



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kiona Miller

**Classic rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd performs at Six Flags America as part of Defenders of Freedom Day sponsored by Naval District Washington Morale, Welfare and Recreation in 2012.**

able concessions, and a convenient and secure venue on their local installation.

For future shows, Freedom Live organizers plan to use customer preference surveys and social media outlets to determine what shows customers want to see, and then work to bring those acts to stages across NDW.

A second event is already booked for September 20 at

Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Although the headliners have not yet been publicly named, Bell said the performers, as well as the emerging talent in the opening act, should create excitement for country music fans in the area.

"Freedom Live will provide A-List entertainers that our very best customers want and deserve to see close to where they work and live," said Bell.

"These individual components will remain as an integral part of the Freedom Live brand going forward and should help expand its lifespan for the benefit of MWR customers."

For tickets and event information, visit [www.freedomlive.ndw.com](http://www.freedomlive.ndw.com).

To stay up to date with news and events across NDW, visit [www.facebook.com/NavDist-Wash](http://www.facebook.com/NavDist-Wash).

# The Need is Real: Donate an Organ



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

**Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Clark, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center director, signs an over-sized organ donor card in honor of National Donate Life Month.**

**By Sharon Renee Taylor  
WRNMMC Public Affairs  
staff writer**

Army Maj. Jason Hawksworth, a transplant surgeon at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), explains the importance of organ donor awareness.

"It's everything. There's a massive shortage of organs for all types: liver, kidney, pancreas, heart, lung, everything. People die every day waiting for organs, so the donor pool and organ awareness is the most important thing in transplant."

A new recipient is added to the national waiting list for organs every 10 minutes, according to Cindy Speas, Director of Community Affairs for the Washington Regional Trans-

plant Community (WRTC) in Annandale, Va. "Every day, 18 people die waiting for a transplant," she said.

More than 120,000 people wait on the national list for an organ, according to Speas. More than 80 percent of those wait on a kidney.

Walter Reed Bethesda Director Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Jeffrey B. Clark recently signed an over-sized organ donor card in honor of National Donate Life Month. The medical center director said he became an organ donor more than 20 years ago, and explained why he believes those who can donate organs should become donors.

"It's part of being a community," Clark said. So many people can benefit from organ donation, he added. "It's incredible what we can do now — how much better we

can make people's lives — the quality of life of those who will live beyond us, that I think, is the great opportunity to give."

The general recalled wounded warriors who passed away from traumatic injuries.

"Their family actually felt great comfort in knowing that their organs were going to continue to serve, because they saw it as an opportunity for their service member to continue to serve," Clark said. "I understand how they felt that way."

"It's a very personal decision. It's an option, [and] everyone should make their own decision. I would just encourage those [who aren't donors] to think about it. If they think they'd be willing to do it, that so much goodness can come

See **ORGAN** page 8



# RESEARCH

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research projects.

"The networking and celebration we all witnessed was well worth the effort," said Army Col. (Dr.) Michael Nelson, director for education, training and research at WRNMMC. He said the event provided an "extraordinary" experience for participants and he enjoyed meeting with volunteers, "our team," foundation and investigators throughout the event.

Murphy said she's hopeful staff, patients and visitors who attended the event were able to "learn what clinical trials are and how they work; understand the safety, benefits and risks involved; and gain insight into clinical research and why society needs them."



Photo by Gregory Greer, Department of Research Programs

**Information concerning research agencies and the research undertaken at Walter Reed Bethesda is shared among participants at the recent Research and Innovation Month "Aware for All" event in the America Building lobby at the medical center.**

# ORGAN

Continued from 7

out of it, that it's just a good thing to do," he added.

Army Lt. Col. Shane Ottman, a transplant surgeon at WRNMMC, said once he performs an organ transplant, he will continue to see the patient as long as needed after they receive a new organ.

"Most transplant programs are total service: they do the pre-, the operative and the post-operative care. Different programs do it for different lengths [of time] and we follow some patients for life here, and some of them we follow until they go back to [whatever region of the country] they came from," Ottman said.

"You can't underestimate the lifestyle change for an individual being on dialysis and then getting their freedom back, and not being on dialysis. The morbidity and mortality associated with dialysis — it's a huge lifestyle and life-change for patients coming off of dialysis," he added.

Patients with eating restrictions and low energy level because of dialysis are able to return to foods and activities they once enjoyed, after a kidney transplant — returning back to a life that they may have been missing for years, Ottman explained.

"Yes, pretty much they're able to do everything, just like normal," Ottman said.

Kenneth Boyd, director of hospital services and professional education with WRTC said he's been involved with tissue and organ donation for the last 21 years. He offered five things individuals should know about donating organs.

One: it's probably the noblest thing that you can do for your community — to save a life," Boyd said. "Two: you can still have an open casket funeral if you donate organs at your death. Three: one person can save as many as nine lives through organ donation and still have an impact on a hundred or more, through tissue and eye donation. Four: you have the ability to designate yourself as a donor on your driver's license, and that wish will be honored. Five: donors can be any age. We've have donors as old as 88 years old, and there are minimal rule-outs."

How can people become donors?

"Most important, is to begin with sharing that decision with your family or loved ones, those people that would make decisions for you if you were ever in the hospital. But the other thing is that you have the ability to designate yourself a donor through your driver's license, donor registry or any other document used to state your end-of-life wishes," Boyd explained.

"Those documents will protect and honor your wish and we will make sure that your wishes are honored in that respect, even if your family members object, and that's important, especially in some communities, and some minority communities or religious or cultural communities where your family's religious or cultural beliefs might not be the same yours. So if you really feel strongly about organ, tissue and eye donation [as well as] making yourself a donor, that documentation honors, protects, and helps us honor your wish," Boyd said.

Individuals can also register to become an organ donor when renewing their driver's license, or online through a state registry. Go to [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov) to find one. If you're interested in helping with minority outreach efforts in the District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia, contact WRTC at 703-641-0100.

If you're a beneficiary or an individual who would like to donate an organ to a military beneficiary, call Vilda Desgoutte, at 301-319-2841 or [vilda.o.desgoutte-brown.ctr@health.mil](mailto:vilda.o.desgoutte-brown.ctr@health.mil).

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# PRAYER

Continued from 1

staff as “vessels and instruments” to do his work as in the verse from Matthew 10:42, which states, “Whoever gives one of these little ones just a cup of cold water to drink in the name of a disciple, most certainly I tell you he will in no way lose his reward.”

In his prayer, Pratel asked that “Peace will come upon this earth, and God will be exulted.”

Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through U.S. history. The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman, according to [nationaldayofprayer.org](http://nationaldayofprayer.org).

In his 2014 proclamation for the National Day of Prayer, President Barack Obama states, “One of our nation’s great strengths is the freedom we hold dear, including the freedom to exercise our faiths freely. For many Americans, prayer is an essential act of worship and a daily discipline. Today and every day, forgiveness and reconciliation will be sought through prayer. Across our country, Americans give thanks for our many blessings, including the freedom to pray as our consciences dictate.... let us carry forward our nation’s tradi-



Photo by Bernard S. Little

**Hospital Corpsman Jodie Hartman sings a song of reflection during the 2014 National Day of Prayer breakfast at Walter Reed Bethesda May 1.**

tion of religious liberty, which protects Americans’ rights to pray and to practice our faiths as we see fit.”

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Photo by Bernard S. Little

**American Red Cross volunteer Lina Czupas (center) blows kisses to the audience after being named Walter Reed Bethesda's first Volunteer of the Quarter during a ceremony April 17 in the Memorial Auditorium. Czupas, 90, has been a volunteer for more than 58 years and continues to assist four days a week in WRNMMC pharmacy and Military Advanced Training Center.**

SERVICE

Continued from 3

formation Technology; Richard Dugan (Clinical Junior Civilian of the Quarter), a nurse on 4 Center; security anti-terrorism security specialist Nathan Williams (Administrative Senior Civilian of the Quarter), of Operations Management; and health educator and exercise physiologist David Holes (Clinical Senior Civilian of the Quarter), of the D. Kenneth Block Fit to Win program at the DiLorenzo TRICARE Health Clinic at the Pentagon.

Also during the ceremony, the WRNMMC director awarded Spc. Robert A. Martinez the Army Commendation Medal for earning the U.S. Army Element's Battalion Soldier of the Year at Walter Reed Bethesda. The general also awarded Staff Sgt. Andrea Hartline the Army Commendation Medal for earning the Battalion's Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year for the U.S. Army Element at Walter Reed Bethesda.

Martinez, a medical laboratory specialist assigned to Alpha Company, Department of Research, Biomedical Research Lab, said he is honored at being named Soldier of the Year. "I feel good about winning the award, [which required] a ton of time studying and

practicing Soldier Skills. My leadership supported me 110 percent," the Soldier added. "I think that my competitive nature and hard work contributed greatly towards my selection."

Hartline, a behavioral health NCO and noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the inpatient behavioral health unit at WRNMMC, also said it was an honor to be recognized for her hard work. "I know we have many quality NCOs here. Excellent leadership and mentorship contributed greatly to my success," she added.

"I have been extremely lucky in my career because I have had some amazing NCOs who 'kicked me out of the door,' so to speak, and made me jump on every opportunity whether it was training, boards, competition, military education, etc.," Hartline continued. "Without strong leadership, dedication, and motivation, I would not be where I am today, and I definitely would not have won NCO of the Year."

Sailors were also recognized with quarterly awards for "exceptional professionalism, personal initiative and selfless devotion to duty," during the awards program. Those honored included: Hospitalman Caleb Scism (Blue Jacket of the Quarter), of the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit; Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Daniel Warshaw (Junior Sailor of the Quarter), of Information Man-

agement; Yeoman 2nd Class Santana Vallejo (Sailor of the Quarter), of the WRNMMC Awards Department; and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Melvin Rolon (Senior Sailor of the Quarter), Pediatrics Department.

Army 1st Lt. Christopher Reyes, also of the Pediatrics Department, earned the Clinical Nurse Transition Preceptor of the Quarter Award, and audiologist Navy Lt. Jessica Snyder, of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, received the Joint Service Achievement Medal for being named the Junior Officer of the Quarter.

American Red Cross volunteer Lina Czupas, earned the first WRNMMC Volunteer of the Quarter Award.

"This young lady celebrated her 90th birthday about two weeks ago," Clark said of Czupas. The WRNMMC director added Czupas has been a volunteer for more than 58 years, and still spends four days a week at Walter Reed Bethesda assisting in the pharmacy and Military Advanced Training Center.

As Czupas took to the stage, the packed Memorial Auditorium stood in applause. She then blew kisses at the audience and received the Volunteer of the Quarter Award recognizing her "exceptional service, compassion and commitment to WRNMMC patients, [and for] serving as a shining example for others to emulate."

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